



Rock Talk

The Official Newsletter of the Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Metal Detectorist Searching Carrot Field Stumbles on Ancient Jewelry Set

Someone buried treasure 3,500 years ago.

A metal detectorist searching a carrot field in Switzerland just found it. Franz Zahn has been metal detecting around Güttingen for years, according to an Oct. 16 news release from Thurgau Canton. He's found a lot of scrap metal and, occasionally, historical artifacts.

In August, Zahn was searching a freshly plowed carrot field with a metal detector when he stumbled on a metallic disc, the release said. He immediately realized it was an extraordinary find. Archaeologists identified Zahn's find as a large jewelry set from the Middle Bronze Age. The finds date to about 1500 B.C. or about 3,500 years ago, according to the release.



This Month's Roundup of Stories

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Excavations uncovered 14 necklace pieces known as spike discs, 11 small bronze spirals, eight larger gold wire spirals, two rings and more than 100 amber beads the size of pinheads, archaeologists said. A photo shows this treasure collection. A bronze arrowhead, beaver tooth, bear tooth, rock crystal, fossilized shark tooth, small ammonite and lumps of ore were also unearthed, archaeologists said.

Archaeologists know of very few Middle Bronze Age settlements in the area where the collection was found. It's unclear how or why the jewelry set came to be buried in Güttingen, the release said.

Read the entire article at [MiamiHerald.com](https://www.miamiherald.com)



Clubhouse Address:
3357 Susan Dr.
Spring Hill, FL 34606

Secretary's Report

Minutes and More from Club Secretary - Melodye Steverson

*Withlacoochee Rockhounds Board of Directors
Meeting Minutes
Date 11-1-23*

Attending Board members; Judith Birx, Janice Wocjik, Melodye Steverson, Janet Wheeler, Ralph Barber, Roger Wheeler, Michael Steverson and Leslie Newberry.

Board meeting started at 6:37 pm and was held via the Internet on Zoom.

President Birx began by asking about the monthly programs coming up. VP Wocjik stated November will be "Cabelot 3.5", December will be "Crystals" by Leslie Newberry, plus the Annual election of Officers and Board.

January will be the annual party and "The Game of Stones" (Rock Bingo).

She followed with a report on our Non-profit status: She said the accountant's office had turned in all the paperwork to the IRS, and the fees have been paid; \$800 to the accountant's office and \$600 to the IRS. We should get results in the near future.

Gem Show:

President Birx stated that she had received two checks from vendors in our PO Box today. Vice President Wocjik said that she had only five people sign up on the volunteer list to work the show. The Board agreed that we needed many more members to volunteer to make our show a success. Ralph Barber stated that he had moved tables on his floor diagram for the show and had come up with space for three more tables, which have already been sold to a vendor.

VP Wocjik asked for a complete list of vendors that had signed up for the show, because she will be sending them an email with information about set up. President Birx asked Treasurer Wheeler if she had purchased the insurance for the show. Treasurer Wheeler said she had not yet, but would complete the task right away. She said she would also purchase four \$50 gift cards to be raffled off to non-member vendors during the show.

VP Wocjik said that she will make sure that we have a coffee urn to brew coffee for the vendors and volunteers, and she will bring donuts for the vendors each day as well.

Ralph Barber said that he has talked to the venue and everything is ready. They still have to make sure they can have 100 tables for us.

Michael Steverson said he would update the website regarding the Gem Show. Melodye Steverson is working with Sir Speedy to acquire one large frame sign and several small in-ground signs to direct people to the show. Update to come.

VP Wocjik said that she has a printer that will print out large poster-type signs that we can paste over cheap signs from Walmart and save a lot of money. That discussion will be continued at a later date.

Melodye Steverson brought up an idea she had discussed with President Birx previously. She suggests that we have a "work day" at the Senior Center in December for members to come in and finish projects they need to complete for Christmas presents, such as: silver pieces or stones they have started but not finished, possible wire-wrapping projects, stamping projects, or other simple projects that they can complete in one day to have for Christmas presents. The available makers and teachers of the club will be on hand that day to supervise and assist members finish their projects. The Board will be discussing this idea further and making a decision very soon.

Janet Wheeler inquired of President Birx if we would be keeping the membership fee the same for 2024. The consensus was yes, it will stay the same for next year. Michael Steverson said he would update the website application to 2024.

The meeting ended at 7:08 pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Secretary
Melodye Steverson*

Eudialyte

Eudialyte is a rare and complex cyclosilicate mineral that is primarily recognized for its vibrant and diverse range of colors, making it a favorite among mineral collectors and lapidaries. It is also valued for its unique crystal structure and the presence of various rare elements.

Eudialyte is characterized by its striking and diverse range of colors, including shades of red, pink, brown, green, and yellow. These colors often appear in intricate and attractive patterns due to its complex crystal structure.

The mineral is typically translucent to opaque and can exhibit a vitreous to greasy luster.

Eudialyte is primarily found in igneous rocks, especially alkaline syenites and pegmatites, and is often associated with other rare minerals. It has been discovered in various locations around the world, with notable occurrences in Russia, Greenland, Canada, and Norway.

Due to its rarity and aesthetic qualities, eudialyte is not only a sought-after mineral for collectors but is also used in the production of gemstones and ornamental carvings. Its name, "eudialyte," is derived from the Greek words "eu," meaning "well," and "dialytos," meaning "soluble," alluding to its tendency to dissolve in acid.

Eudialyte is a fascinating mineral with a relatively complex formation process, and it can be found in a variety of geological settings around the world. Here's more information on the formation, occurrence, and distribution of eudialyte:

Eudialyte forms in alkaline igneous rocks, primarily through the process of magmatic crystallization. The specific conditions required for its formation involve the presence of a highly alkaline magma, which is rich in sodium, potassium, and other elements. This magma typically intrudes into existing rocks and cools, allowing the eudialyte to crystallize.

Eudialyte's unique chemistry, including the presence of rare earth elements and the combination of sodium, calcium, cerium, iron, zirconium, silicon, and other elements, plays a crucial role in its formation. The mineral can also incorporate other trace elements, giving rise to its colorful and complex crystal structures.

Read the entire article at [GeologyScience.com](https://www.geology-science.com)





Withlacoochee Rockhounds Presents

The 3.5 One

Cabelot

TURNING ROCKS INTO GEMSTONES AGAIN

It's baaaaack... Let's try it one more time!

At our November 8th Meeting, we will defeat the elements and visit the world of lapidary once more. Members will design a CAB with templates, cut a CAB with a trim saw, and grind a CAB with our Pixie Cabbing machines.

Experienced lapidary members will have lapidary equipment on display throughout the clubhouse to show a variety of techniques to make your simple rock come to life as a gemstone!



Pinolith

Pinolith is a unique and visually striking metamorphic rock that is primarily composed of two distinct minerals: white magnesite and black graphite.

It is known for its distinctive appearance, characterized by a snow-white background with contrasting, relatively large, and scattered black, gray, or silver specks. This striking pattern resembles a snowy landscape with dark pinpricks, which is how the rock got its name, a combination of “pine” (referring to the specks) and “lith” (meaning “stone” in Greek).

Pinolith is mainly composed of magnesite, a carbonate mineral composed of magnesium, carbon, and oxygen. It often contains veins or specks of graphite, a form of carbon, which give the rock its distinctive appearance.

Pinolith typically has a smooth, marble-like texture. When polished, it has a glossy appearance that enhances its contrast and beauty.

Pinolith is primarily found in Austria, in the Styrian Alps, and is also known as “Styrian snowflake” due to its resemblance to snow on the mountains. It is relatively rare and not as widely known as other ornamental stones.

Pinolith is a relatively rare rock, and its occurrence is limited to specific geographic regions.

Specifically, you can find Pinolith in the Styria (Steiermark) region of Austria.

Within the Styrian Alps, Pinolith can be found in certain quarries and mines.

It is often extracted as a byproduct of mining operations that primarily target magnesite deposits. These magnesite mines in the region occasionally yield Pinolith when it occurs in proximity to the magnesite deposits. It is in these mines that Pinolith is quarried and subsequently used for various ornamental and decorative purposes.

While Austria is the primary source of Pinolith, it is not commonly found in other parts of the world. The specific geological conditions and mineral compositions required for Pinolith's formation limit its occurrence to this region.

This rarity, along with its unique appearance, contributes to its desirability in the world of jewelry, sculpture, and decorative arts.

Read the entire article at [GeologyScience.com](https://www.geology-science.com)



Ancient elephant graveyard uncovered in Florida: 'Once-in-a-lifetime find'

Talk about a paleontologist's jackpot.

Remnants of a prehistoric creature called the gomphothere, an extinct relative of modern-day elephants, were uncovered recently at the Montbrook Fossil Dig in North Florida.

The fossils, estimated to be about five and a half million years old, provide invaluable insight into the diverse wildlife that once roamed prehistoric Florida.

Gomphotheres roamed the Earth for over 20 million years. They evolved and adapted to different environments, spreading across continents and thriving in new landscapes.

What makes them particularly intriguing is the variety of their features.

Unlike their more well-known relatives like woolly mammoths, gomphotheres had unique tusk configurations and body sizes, making them a fascinating group to study.



The journey to this discovery began when a retired chemistry teacher and museum volunteer stumbled upon the initial gomphothere remains last spring. Little did he know that he had stumbled upon something truly extraordinary. "I started coming upon one after another of toe and ankle bones," says Dean Warner, in a media release. "As I continued to dig, what turned out to be the ulna and radius started to be uncovered. We all knew that something special had been found."

Within days, the research team uncovered not just one, but several complete skeletons, including an adult and several juveniles.

The size of these creatures is awe-inspiring, with the adult gomphothere estimated to be eight feet tall at the shoulders and sporting tusks that measure over nine feet in length.

Read the entire article at [StudyFinds.org](https://www.studyfinds.org)



Field Trips

"Note: The Withlacoochee Rockhounds Club does not sponsor field trips other than trips that are sanctioned by the SFMS (The Southeast Federation of Mineralogical Societies).

Our club insurance is through SFMS and does not cover excursions not listed on their website as safe."

Where And How To Easily Find Citrine

Citrine's clear yellow-to-brownish colors draw admiration from both gem lovers and geologists. It's known as the "merchant's stone" because it's linked to wealth and abundance. People want it for its durability and ability to be used in various jewelry designs. This gemstone gets its unique color from iron ions and natural radiation irradiation within quartz crystals.

It's mostly found in igneous and metamorphic rocks, and its presence has been a delightful discovery for many gemstone collectors and enthusiasts.

Citrine is a clear, yellow type of quartz whose shades of pale yellow can be identified as brownish-orange. This gem is found in igneous and metamorphic rocks, mostly granite and gneiss.

It's made chiefly when iron-containing elements are added to growing quartz crystals by natural geological processes that use heat and pressure.

Natural citrine is hard to find and is usually found in quartz veins.

Most citrine sold in stores is made from amethyst or smoky quartz that has been heated. There are important deposits in Brazil, Madagascar, and the Ural Mountains in Russia.

There are also deposits in the United States, especially in North Carolina and Colorado.

Citrine is a stunning type of quartz that is loved for its sunny colors, which range from lemon yellow to reddish brown.

There are different kinds of this gem.

Each type has its appeal for collectors and enthusiasts, thanks to the way it was formed and where it came from.

Crystals of ametrine, a rare type of naturally occurring quartz, have two different colors in one crystal. The colors are purple and yellow. The beautiful color comes from the amethyst and citrine being in the same stone.

Among the more common types of citrine, golden citrine stands out because of its beautiful deep golden-yellow color. People often say this stone's color resembles the sun or golden honey.

The bright lemon-yellow color of lemon citrine makes it look lighter and more lively than the deeper golden colors of common citrine. This color is less intense and is often considered more subtle and elegant.

Read the entire article at RockChasing.com



!!Calling all members!!

**Our Annual Gem Show is coming up VERY soon and we all need to pitch in and help make it great! This show is our money maker for the entire year, and that money allows our club to present great programs, wonderful classes, gifts, tools and equipment throughout the following year. Volunteering is also one of the best ways to increase your chances of being awarded our yearly scholarship to the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts for a week of classes!
Carve some time out of your weekend, Nov. 30th - Dec 3rd
and**

VOLUNTEER!

Help your club be even better in 2024!

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Our monthly club meeting is held at the Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Club, 3357 Susan Dr., Spring Hill, FL 34606, on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM



www.withlacoocheerockhounds.com

Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

The cost for non-club members to advertise their businesses in Rock Talk is \$10.00 per month. Contact Michael Steverson to set up an ad in both the newsletter and the club website. It will benefit both your business and our club.

Advertisers Needed

Please help us find advertisers for the Rock Talk and our website. The club can use the monthly income. Both the Rock Talk and our website have more exposure than only club members

Contact club treasure Janet Wheeler: ceegirl@tampabay.rr.com or send to: Withlacoochee Rockhounds, PO Box 9634, Spring Hill, FL 34811-6634

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Purpose

We are a non-profit organization whose purpose is to foster interest and promote knowledge of minerals, gems, fossils, lapidary arts, and earth sciences, through regular meetings, informative programs, workshops, and field trips. PLUS, our annual gem, mineral and jewelry show.

Membership is open to anyone sharing such interests.

Dues

Dues are \$35.00 annually for adults, and \$5.00 for children under 18 years of age.

Club Meeting Location and time

Weeki Wachee Senior Citizens Center, 3357 Susan Dr in Spring Hill. The meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00PM

2023 Club Officers and Appointees

President	Judith Birx	352.587.1702	judithblrx@hotmail.com
Vice President	Janice Wojcik	813.677.6263	jfwojcik@verizon.net
Secretary	Melodye Steverson	352.683.9496	melodye@designsbymelodye.com
Treasurer	Janet Wheeler	727.938.3644	ceegirl@tampabay.rr.com
Rock Talk Editor	Michael Steverson	407.376.5570	highlander56@gmail.com
Club Webmaster	Michael Steverson	407.376.5570	highlander56@gmail.com
Mailing Reporter	Janet Wheeler	727.938.3644	ceegirl@tampabay.rr.com
Gem Bag Coordinator	Gloria DuPont	352.848.5199	ddupont@tampabay.rr.com
Audio/Visual Coordinator	Michael Steverson	407.376.5570	highlander56@gmail.com

Board of Directors

Judith Birx (President)	Janice Wojcik (Vice President)	Melodye Steverson (Secretary)	Janet Wheeler (Treasurer)
Roberta Oldread	Leslie Newberry	Roger Wheeler	Michael Steverson
			Ralph Barber (Past President)



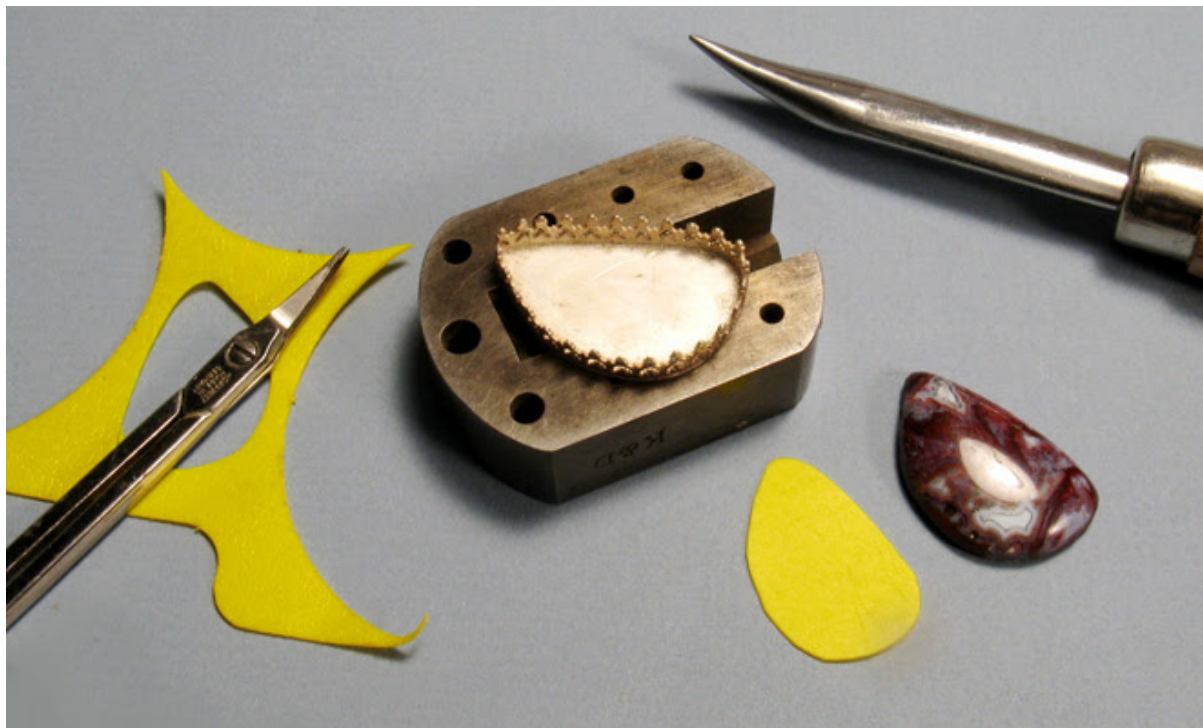
Brad Smith's *Bench Tips* are a monthly feature of Rock Talk

RAISING A CABOCHON

When a cabochon sits too low in a bezel, the bezel hides a lot of the stone. The solution is to either sand down the bezel height or boost up the stone. But if you choose to to raise it up, the question is what is the best material to use ?

I was taught to use fine sawdust but now think that might be a problem when used in rings. I reason that rings will frequently get wet, which would cause the sawdust to swell in size and push the stone against the bezel. Then when the sawdust dries out, the stone would be a little loose.

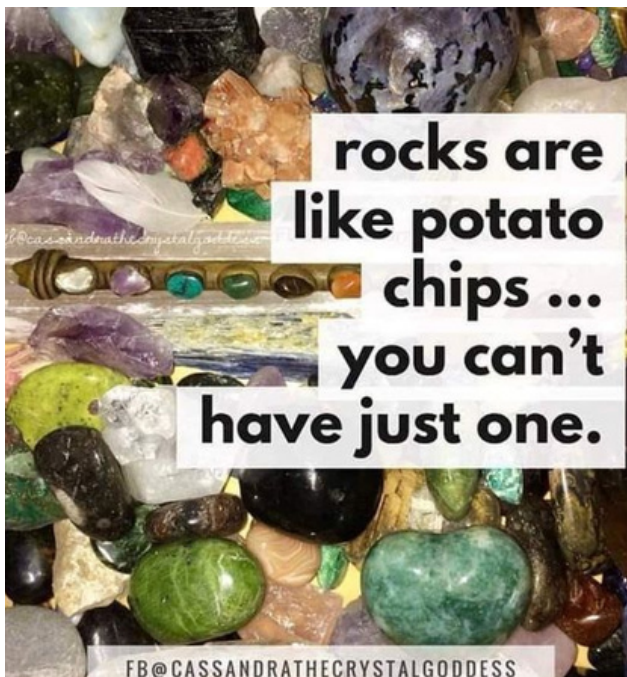
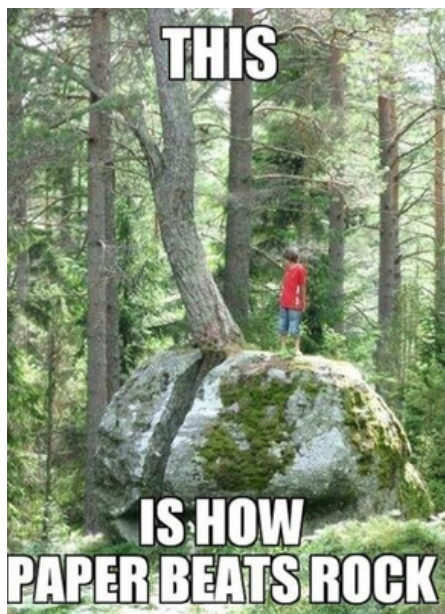
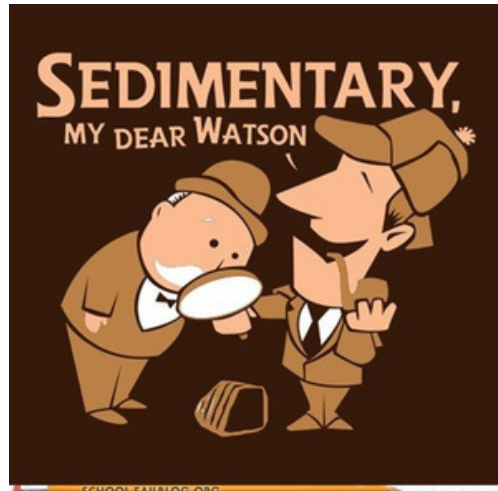
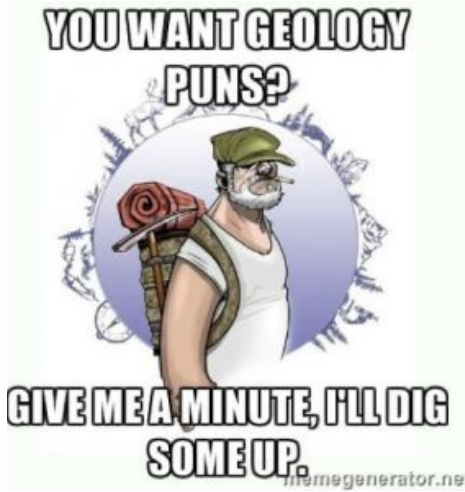
In any case, I now prefer to insert a flat sheet to boost up my stones. It can be a scrap of metal or some plastic from product packaging or old credit cards. In either case, just cut a piece to loosely fit into the bezel and drop in the stone (with some dental floss) to check it's height.

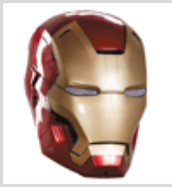


Learn New Skills with Brad's "How To Do It" Books

[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)

Rock Talk Funny Papers





From The Editor

Hello to all Withlacoochee Rockhounds

It is I, your friendly neighborhood editor again.

For only the 2nd time in as many years, we postponed our meeting due to an incoming storm. Seems the storm had other thoughts and spared us and the clubhouse. Oh well, better safe than sorry,

So, at our November meeting, we will be having the return of a club favorite - Cabelot! Originally scheduled for October, this will be the third time for Cabelot. Be sure to attend!

If you would like to place a business card ad in the newsletter, please feel free to contact me, and we'll get you added to the next available issue.

Additionally, if any of you have not received your newsletter or are not receiving my e-mail blasts (meetings, rock sales, etc.), *please* check your spam folder. If you are still are not receiving them, please contact me, and let's make sure I have your correct e-mail address. I have a few of you who unsubscribed from the mailings. I cannot add you back to the list. You have to subscribe to get back on the list. It's a permissions thing.

Our Board would like our members to come up with suggestions for programs to be presented at our monthly meetings. What would you like to see? What would you like to learn? What would you like to know? Is there something you'd like to teach or present? You can help our club expand its educational repertoire. We'd love to hear from you all.

Contact any Board member or bring your written suggestions to a meeting.

Rock On!!!

Club Phone Number - 352.587.2714

Warning to Withlacoochee Rockhound Members

During the last several months, illicit requests have been sent to members of various clubs in the US, including the Withlacoochee Rockhounds, asking members to purchase gift cards that would be used as donations to various organizations.

These are SCAMS.


Be advised that our club has never and will never ask members to buy gift cards or provide any form of monetary funds to anyone or any organization by phone call, email, or any other method of communication.

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Your Business Card Size Ad in Rock Talk

The cost for non-club members to advertise their businesses in
Rock Talk is \$10.00 per month.

Contact Michael Steverson to set up an ad in both the newsletter and
the club website. It will benefit both
your business and our club.

If your ad has a web address, or Etsy shop address, I have linked to it.

Advertisers Are Needed

Please help us find advertisers for the Rock Talk and our website.

The monthly income from these ads is beneficial to the club.

Both the Rock Talk and our website have more exposure than only club members.

Contact club treasurer Janet Wheeler: ceecgirl@tampabay.rr.com or

send to:

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

PO Box 5634 Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

Withlacoochee Rockhounds

Membership Form

2023

Annual Dues: Individual member, \$35.00. Under 18 years of age, \$5.00

Check if returning member

Check if current member
with change of information

Check if new member

Check if under 18

Please Print Clearly

Last name

First Name

Street Address:

City

State

ZIP

Phone Number (s)

Email address:

You may now fill in the fields on this form if you are viewing it on your computer or tablet.
Each field may be clicked on and then you may type in your information.
You will still need to print out the form, but your added information should show on the form.

Give this completed form along with your check for dues made out to "Withlacoochee Rockhounds" to club secretary Janet Wheeler at a club meeting. Or mail the form and your check to:

Withlacoochee Rockhounds
PO Box 5634
Spring Hill, FL 34611-5634

2022